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Obstetricians Offer Mass of Thanksgiving

Catholic Physicians' Guilds

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Obstetricians Offer Mass of Thanksgiving

The time was a day early in January 1944. The place was St. John's Hospital in St. Louis. The administrator was discussing with the staff's chief obstetrician the events of the previous year. Personnel shortages had occurred, supplies had been curtailed—it had been difficult to carry on, giving the usual patient care during a war year. "In spite of all—we have been singularly blessed" the physician was humbly declaring. "We have not lost a mother during these trying months. Thanks be to God for that!"

In pursuing the matter further, the grateful physician wondered aloud if the hospital would help him sponsor a Mass of Thanksgiving and invite all the obstetricians on the staff. Immediate assent was forthcoming. By happy coincidence, the most convenient Sunday closest to the thought was the Feast of the Holy Family and was chosen as the day. Invitations were sent to 14 obstetricians on the staff. This year, for the ninth time, 40 physicians assisted at the Mass.

Frequently internes serve the Mass. Breakfast then follows in the hospital and the priest celebrating the Holy Sacrifice is asked to address the group, honoring the occasion.

1954 will be the 10th anniversary of the Obstetricians' Mass of Thanksgiving. To share this custom with all those who serve in this field, we are reporting this activity with the thought that other Catholic hospitals in co-operation with their staff may be interested in establishing this practice. Without any formal organization, it is hoped that this beautiful ceremony expressing gratitude might become national.

Obstetricians are urged to discuss this with their hospital administrators and if agreeable, make plans for a Mass of Thanksgiving in the hospital chapel on the Feast of the Holy Family in 1954 and annually thereafter.

Annual Meeting of Catholic Physicians

The annual meeting for Catholic physicians will be held Wednesday, June 3, 1953. The occasion is sponsored by The Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds but not necessarily limited to membership. All Catholic doctors are cordially invited to attend.

The place—Hotel Commodore, New York City

The time—12:30 p. m.—Luncheon

A short program will follow the luncheon. His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York, is to be guest speaker.

If you have not mailed your reservation to date, you are urged to do so at once.